

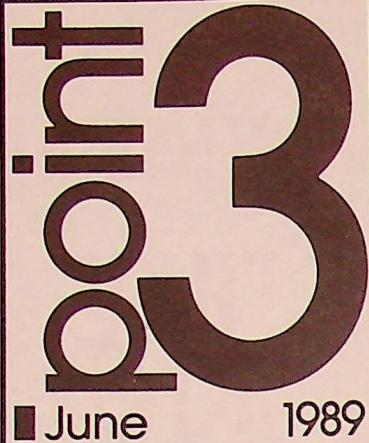
■ in this issue:

A GOOD INVESTMENT CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION



The magazine of
TOC H The TOC H logo consists of the letters "TOC H" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized graphic element resembling a chalice or a flame to the right of the "H".

price 20p



Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P. B. 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

'I Have a Dream'

When giving the address at a rededication service recently, I stole the phrase from Martin Luther King's famous speech: 'I have a dream'.

I have a dream too. It's one which encompasses the whole of the universe and every individual in it. Part of that dream is that Toc H will play an active part in creating the kind of world we would all like to live in: one where the whole creation lives in a great harmony; where individuals have dignity and the freedom to accomplish their potential; a world where love really is the dominant claim and the dominant force, a love which never has to say sorry because it never does harm and never makes demands. In creating this world Toc H has a very real and vital rôle.

I believe that humanity has lost its way in two fundamental areas, those of meeting and meaning.

By the word 'meeting' I don't mean the superficial and casual contact which enquires 'How are you?' without really wanting to know the answer. I don't mean meetings where business is transacted. I do mean the kind of encounter where people struggle to understand each other, one where I feel warm because my feelings and thoughts are being listened to or one where I am challenged by a new opinion or experience.

'Meaning' is less easy to define. For me it is the essential part of being human, a prime aspect of spirituality. It is those beliefs and principles which give a reason for living, a purpose to all that is done, a point which will one day be reached. For many this may be enshrined in a religious faith and practised through a formal church. For me it is

encompassed by all that Christianity stands for and attempts to practise. For too many people 'meaning' is something which is not thought about though it is often unconsciously searched after through science, drugs, alcohol and a variety of healing and religious sects.

Toc H now has something vital to contribute to society. Our experience over decades is in bringing people together who wouldn't otherwise meet. It is in enabling people, through their work and talk together, to discover and live out meaning and purpose in their lives.

I have a dream which can be fulfilled if we all grasp at the opportunities before us. Then there will be renewal for the movement in the 1990s, and this might contribute to a renewal of society. The dream will not come true if we become distracted by superficial matters, nor if we cling rigidly to past triumphs or failed hopes. It will not come true if any of us maintains a narrow, blinkered vision, nor if we prefer to stagnate in the comfortable securities of what we know.

This dream will come true if we take the risk of reaching into the future with a claim of confidence in ourselves and the spirit which has inspired us for so long.

'I have a dream.'

Alan Johnson

*Recently appointed National Chaplain,
subject to confirmation by Central Council.*

Editor: Judith Rice
Designer: Sybil A. Chick

Cover

Two Kempston Branch members with the mayor as Toc H opened its first charity shop in Britain (see opposite).
Photo: The Bedfordshire Times.

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 38 Newark Street, London, E1 2AA. Tel: 01 247 5110.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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A Good Investment

Sue Biggerstaff visits a new Toc H venture in Kempston.

Walk through the door and you are surrounded by racks of clothes, shelves of books and bric-a-brac such as you would find in any good charity shop. But this one is different, indeed unique, for this is the first charity shop in Great Britain to have Toc H emblazoned across its front. When Dot Turner of Kempston Branch was in South Africa a few years ago, she was struck by the number of charity shops which Toc H SA had set up. When she returned home, she suggested to her own branch members that they move away from jumble sales and coffee mornings and try to establish a shop themselves. The CEC approved the idea and made a loan of £12,000 to be paid back over a three-year period. A special management committee was formed consisting of members of the branch, the Toc H Properties Officer, Alan Le Pere, Joan Nicholas (a former CEC member) and Ted Tunnadine, the Honorary Treasurer. So the shop operates as a separate entity to the branch itself.

'this is more than a shop...it has become a contact point for people living round about'

The premises which were eventually leased to Toc H stand in a row of small businesses in the middle of a council estate, with a private residential area just down the road. It's an ideal situation and, since it opened on December 8th last year, the shop has certainly proved itself to be a good investment. During the first month a staggering £1,200 was taken, making a profit of £400. When I visited in January, £1,250 had been taken and it was only half way through the month. So where does the money go to? 'Of the profit made, 50% goes into the Family Purse and the other 50% is put into branch funds,' explained Pat Turner, member of the branch and of the CEC. 'But it's not stashed away in a



The crowd gathers for the opening of the shop last December.



Pat Turner makes a sale to the Lord Mayor.

bank account; we spend it on activities in and around Kempston.' The branch is a busy one, running parties for the local elderly, visiting a home for the mentally handicapped, entering a float in the summer carnival and, last year, funding a weekend project. 'Since we started up the shop we've discovered that there are a lot of elderly people around here whom we didn't know about,' said Pat. 'So at this year's Christmas Party we're hoping that the numbers will run to 100.'

Indeed this is more than a shop; it has quickly become a contact point for the people living round about. The branch members and volunteers who run the shop on a rota basis are only too happy to chat with the customers, and consequently learn of other ways in which they can be of service to the community. Just down the road there's a training workshop for mentally handicapped adults; a small team of them now come to clean the front of the shop each morning. Meanwhile a woman who is recovering from a nervous breakdown has been invited to give a hand for a few hours a week, to help regain her confidence. 'These "spin-offs" are very important and show the need for person-to-person contact,' says Pat. 'We are good PR for Toc H - we often get enquiries as to what Toc H is and we also come across people who knew the movement years ago.' Hopefully the members of Kempston Branch are pioneering something which will spread to other parts of the country. They are showing that charity shops not only make money; they are also a way of raising public awareness of what Toc H is all about.



Time for a cuppa.

Lynn Weaver has been living and working in Bethlehem for the past six years. Judith Rice went to meet her on one of her visits home, to find out why.

A Call to Bethlehem

The turning point in Lynn Weaver's life was a visit to Israel in 1978 when she was in her late 30s. She'd wanted to go there for years but was unprepared for the impact it would have on her: 'It was like being whisked back into Bible times. Just to see an Arab boy on a donkey with his flock of sheep gave me a thrill....' More than that, she was filled with a spiritual certainty, the origin of which she cannot explain: 'an awareness... is that the right word?... an awareness that Jesus was with me.' As a result she was later to leave her friends, family and job to go to live and work on the West Bank, following a 'call' which she felt compelled to obey.

She had been brought up as a Christian and had always been involved with the Church in various ways. She had no doubts about her faith: 'If anybody had ever said to me "Do you know that Jesus is alive?" I would have said "Well yes, I know, the Bible tells me he is"'. But her faith wasn't 'real'. She was aware that something was missing in her life, that somewhere deep within there was an 'emptiness' - but she didn't understand it and she didn't associate it with religion.

'I was walking to work one morning and there was this knot there inside me'

She moved from Derbyshire to Bristol at the age of 17, to work as a nursery nurse. She stayed in that part of the country for many years but changed jobs a number of times. She ended up in the Welfare Department of British Telecom, which 'was chance, but it was just right for me. They were a lovely lot of people and we're still friends today, all of us'. These were happy years, when she was busy with the Church, Sunday School - and Toc H. She was one of the youngest in her local branch but felt that she was completely accepted and cared for. Toc H was, for her, 'practical Christianity'. It was also, she now believes, a 'training ground' for her current work. When

a change of
direct.on

she joined she was a shy and immature 18 year old. By the time she had met numerous strangers at Toc H meetings and festivals, had been chairman of her branch and had acted as Central Councillor, she had changed from a person for whom it was 'an ordeal even to walk into the Toc H room' to someone capable of leading her local 'Pathfinders' group and giving public talks.

She had been living, all this time, with her ageing parents. Her mother's death in 1975 set off in her powerful feelings of fear and uncertainty. She realised she was afraid of spending the rest of her life looking after elderly people - and even her happy work environment looked set to change with the approaching retirement of her colleagues. 'It wasn't a big thing but it was always there. Then one morning I was walking to work and there was this knot there inside me and I almost got angry and just as I was getting into the office I said "Oh, there isn't one thing here that you can't deal with, God - you take them..." I went in and did my work and it wasn't until the afternoon that I suddenly knew there was something different in the office. I looked around and I asked the girl I worked with "Has the clock stopped?" - and she said "It doesn't tick, it's electric!" And I knew it was something in me, and then I realised the knot had gone'.

'it was almost as though I was preparing to get married'

She can't now remember whether this incident happened before or after her trip to Israel - from which she returned 'full of fear'. Her 10 day tour was with a group, led by someone she knew through Pathfinders. The week before she went she was in a peculiar state of excitement: 'It may seem stupid but it was almost as though I was preparing to get married. It was uncanny... it was a fulfilment of something I'd always wanted to do'.

Apart from her excitement at seeing her sepia tinted image of the Bible lands transformed into living colour, she could not at the time have expressed what it was that happened to her in Israel. She now describes it as a realisation, for the first time, 'that Jesus knew me, he cared about me, he accepted me and he had a purpose for me... I think that was the awesome thing, that there was this personal relationship. It wasn't just the fact that Jesus was alive, it was that I was connected with him'. She sees it as the final lifting of her shyness and the resolution of 'some sort of inferiority complex' which she had been slowly working through.

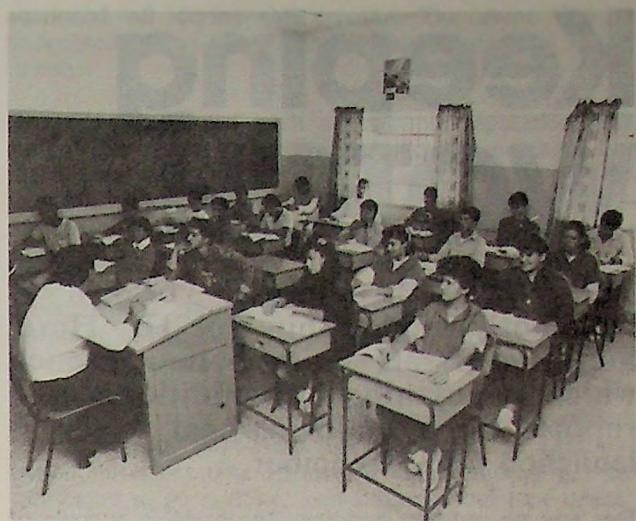
When she came home she was in turmoil, but didn't know what she should do. For two years she remained uncertain, although the phrase 'Feed my lambs' haunted her to such an extent that in the end she prayed desperately to be shown *which* lambs! In February 1981, she found herself suddenly thinking of a Christmas carol about Bethlehem; over the next few days, allusions to Bethlehem cropped up unexpectedly in a variety of situations. In a state of rising confusion and anxiety she found herself looking at the



Lynn Weaver at the piano.



Lynn Weaver in her office.



A class at Hope School.

Bible reading for that Sunday's service: 'Leave your father's house, your family and friends and go to the country I will show you'. 'I shut the book; my father put the news on; my sister popped her head round the door and said "Aren't you watching that programme about Israel?" I just went cold'.

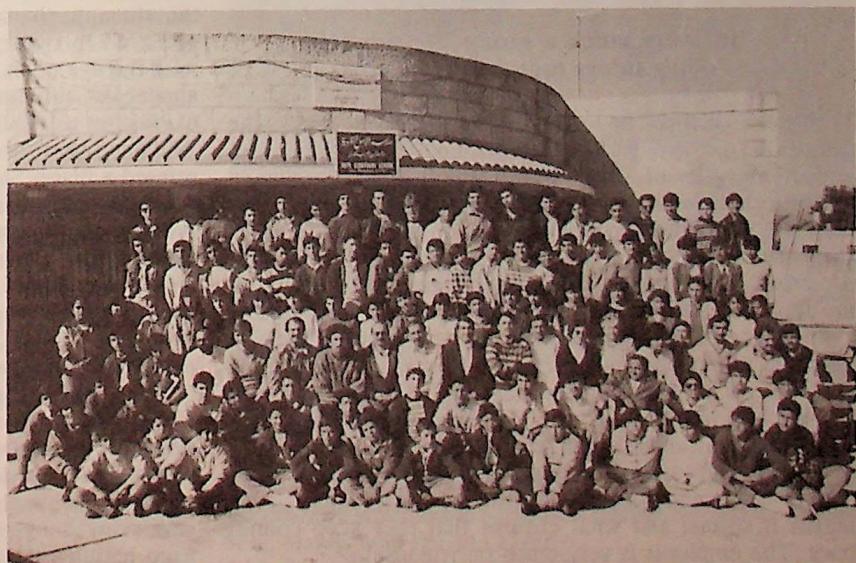
'the fear, the anxiety, have gone out of my life'

She was still very reluctant to leave everybody behind - especially her father - to go to a country where she knew no-one and had no job. But after a number of enquiries and false starts and a preparatory visit, she set off in July 1982 to fill the vacant post of Sponsorship Secretary at Hope School, high in the Judean Hills over Bethlehem. Most of her fears had by now been laid to rest: 'God had showed me in so many ways that Bethlehem was the place He wanted me to be and that He would provide for my every need'. But there were still difficulties to come. She spent a long time living out of suitcases, she couldn't get on with the food and she found it difficult to get used to the flexible working hours. For two years she had a boss who was such a perfectionist that she felt in a constant state of tension. But she stuck it out and is now happy. She will stay there as long as she feels she is meant to do so - but she is convinced that God has other plans for her future.

Her job involves making contact with Christians all round

the world who sponsor a student or support the school; writing the quarterly newsletter; ensuring the students answer their sponsors' letters; dealing with mail; showing round visitors and so on. It is a boarding school for Arab boys and a few girls aged 12-18. Some are orphans and some are disabled - most are from poor homes. One third are Muslim and two thirds Christian. The school was founded by the Menonites and is a Mission school of sorts, but the staff do not set out to convert the children and most of the Muslim students remain in the fold of Islam. 'How we see it is - we are just showing them that God loves and cares for them. We tell them what we believe about Jesus of course, but we leave the rest to God and to them. We feel it's our job to care, to love and to provide. Above all, we're giving them a future. Most of the boys would end up begging or doing nothing'. The school is fairly supportive of the Palestinian cause, but believes that violence is not the solution. They are proud that none of their boys have been involved in stone-throwing incidents: 'I think it's significant. They've been taught that it's wrong to do this so they just want to keep out of it'.

So how does the Lynn Weaver of Hope School differ from the person of 10 years ago? 'I'm so much freer now!' She surprised herself recently by looking round her room and realising that there was nothing she couldn't do without. 'To have reached that stage is incredible for me. . . . It's been a long journey, but the fear, the anxiety have gone out of my life. I know I can trust God in every situation'.



Hope Secondary School - students and staff.

Keeping WOTCH

The term 'traditional branch' is frequently used within Toc H. Here Sue Biggerstaff visits a new branch which is anything but traditional and reports on a major appeal which it launched last September.

This was no ordinary wedding. The bride in a gown of pure white ambled clumsily across the room, a wig of thick, dark curls framing a heavily made-up face, rouge and face powder unable to disguise a bristled chin. The door opened - enter the bridesmaids, both sporting matching peach-coloured frocks of shimmering silk. They too moved awkwardly around the hall, the moustachioed face of one peering out uncertainly from beneath a cascade of false curls. Meanwhile, in the ladies' toilets, the groom was busy painting on a false beard, blonde hair pulled tightly back in a pony tail. Wednesfield Outward Toc H Branch was about to embark on another of its highly imaginative fundraising ventures: a mock wedding reception in which all the female roles were played by men while the male roles were taken on by women - a very different sort of wedding party organised by a very different Toc H branch.

WOTCH was formed in April 1987 after Chris Williams, an active Toc H member for many years, observed that the high percentage of unemployed young people in the Wednesfield area had very little to occupy their time. Therefore she advertised a free week-long holiday specifically for the unemployed, doing conservation work at the Port Penrhyn Toc H Centre in North Wales. Of the half dozen who responded and went away on that week, four came back keen to start up a new Toc H group in the town. Today that group has a membership of 16 and is growing all the time. As far as Toc H is concerned, WOTCH is unusual in that the majority of its members are male and roughly half are unemployed, on YTS courses or have only part-time jobs. The youngest is 17, the oldest is 30 and new recruits are enlisted by word of mouth.

'it's very much a group of friends doing things together socially'

The week before my visit, WOTCH had made the transition from group to branch. Around half of them were already members of Toc H and it was they who explained to the others what being a branch meant and they who demonstrated both versions of the Ceremony of Light, so that the group as a whole could decide which they preferred. Today the Lamp is lit after every business meeting and the Prayer of St. Francis is said. Julieann Collins, one of the founder members, explained to me that although few of the members would regard themselves as Christian or religious in any way, they definitely want to be seen as a branch of Toc H: 'The Ceremony of Light is a symbol of that and of their eagerness to help others.' It's very much a group of friends doing things together, both in Toc H terms and socially. As Julieann says, 'This is what makes it special and what ensures that they keep coming back. The emphasis is very much on friendship.'



▲ The best man reads out the telegrams.



◀ The parents of the bride.

Last September WOTCH launched an appeal in aid of the son of one of its members. Four-year-old Danny Handy has suspected cerebral palsy and has, as a consequence, impaired hearing, short-sightedness and limited social and physical skills. In order to help Danny lead a fuller life, WOTCH hopes to raise £100,000, £10,000 of which will pay for him to receive special therapy at the Institute for Conductive Education in Birmingham. The remainder will go to train more therapists or 'conductors', so allowing the Birmingham Institute to extend its intake of students. But even if the full sum is raised, there's no guarantee that Danny will get a place. The Institute will only accept cases where there is a definite chance of being able to improve the child's condition. Therefore the earlier they can start the therapy, the more effective it will be. Danny is five years old this year; the Institute will not take on any child over the age of six. Therefore, when WOTCH launched the appeal last autumn, they set themselves the formidable task of raising £10,000 in under two years. I asked Chris Williams what would happen to the money if Danny was refused a place. She assured me that there's no danger of it going to waste, hence the two-fold nature of the campaign. Aside from therapy for Danny the appeal is also about training new conductors - so even if Danny doesn't benefit in the way hoped, Conductive Education in this country will be given a major boost.

'the group is very imaginative in thinking up ways of raising money'

WOTCH has thrown itself into this appeal with remarkable energy. They leafleted every house in Wednesfield, explaining what they're trying to do and asking people to get involved by organising their own fundraising events, from jumble sales to raffles to a whip-round at work. And



◀ The cutting of the cake.



Lining up for the conga.

auctioned off during the evening. The event was an undoubted success and the entertainment value was second to none.

WOTCH has earned itself an enviable reputation both within Toc H circles and in the wider community. But there is no way that its members are content to rest on their laurels in Wednesfield; they're determined instead to set up similar groups elsewhere. The strategy is to invite young people from nearby towns to come along to a WOTCH activity. Leaflets are pushed through doors, questionnaires are left in libraries and once two or more people from the same place have shown an interest, they join WOTCH and are shown by example what a Toc H group is about. Eventually they are encouraged to set up something in their own area and recruit more members. Their time with WOTCH is therefore treated as a training period. 'It might take 12 months before they've got the confidence to go it alone,' said Julieann; 'but time doesn't matter as long as it finally happens.' One group has already got off the ground in Willenhall: WILLACT has around 10 members. Meanwhile Walsall, Halesowen and the Low Hill area of Wolverhampton have also been targeted. It is hoped that eventually there will be a network of separate groups, all doing their own projects but also co-operating and supporting each other. 'Then we'd reach more members of the community and maybe even attract more young people,' said Julieann. 'Who knows - it could become a whole new Toc H.'

At the time of going to press, WOTCH had raised £2,500 for the Danny Handy appeal.

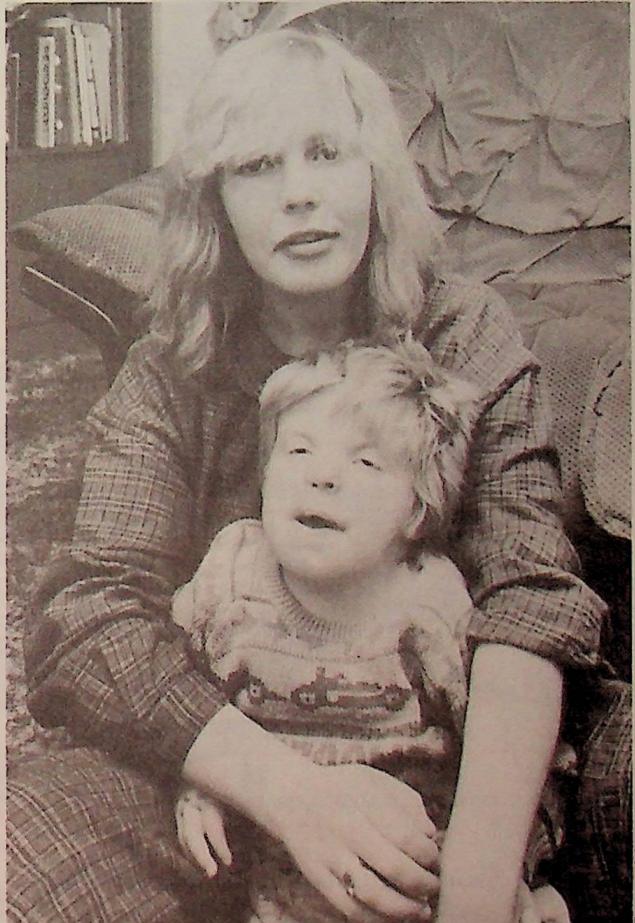
Susie Lockyer writes about Conductive Education on pages 8-9.

the public have proved to be just as enthusiastic as the initiators. 'One lady organised a barbecue, another made a quilt which is being raffled,' said Julieann. 'Then the mums of the WOTCH members have planned a dance; people are being very co-operative in hiring out halls, etc. free of charge. Similarly discos are being held for young teenagers who are often bored 'cos there's nothing geared specifically for them. The response has been great.'

Meanwhile the WOTCH members themselves have staged an event practically every weekend since the launch. Julieann, who is a trained health and fitness therapist, decided to do a sponsored 24-hour keep-fit. She rallied the rest of the group together and suggested that while she did her fitness routines, they do other sponsored activities. They managed to persuade a local youth club to lend its table tennis and pool tables and set them up in the same building Julieann was using. Everybody organised their own sponsorship and the event was publicised in a local paper. Throughout the 24 hours people dropped in to give moral support and to donate money there and then. After 27 hours, £107 had been raised in donations alone. Once the sponsorship money had been collected, the total was expected to be over £350.

The group is obviously very imaginative in thinking up ways of making money. Tracey Collins, who works in a tax office, has agreed to give up smoking if her colleagues pay her 20p a month for the duration of the appeal. And when Chris came up with the idea of a mock wedding, the group was enthusiastic, to say the least! A lot of time was spent putting together the costumes and preparing a buffet meal. The guests were family, friends and members of South Staffs and Wulfrun District Toc H, all of whom brought with them wrapped presents which were

Photos: Sue Biggarstaff



Julie Handy with her son Danny

Photo: Wolverhampton Chronicle

A Problem of Learning



Children are learning to do things for themselves.

Conductive Education is a very special way of teaching developed in Hungary for people with disabling conditions which impair movement, known as 'motor disorders'. In children these are cerebral palsy and spina bifida; in adults, stroke, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. The underlying philosophy of Conductive Education is that problems of controlling movement are really problems of *learning*. A motor-disordered person has to be taught to control movement, whereas a normal, able-bodied person learns this as a part of normal development.

Conductive education teaches ways to compensate, it does not cure - it finds other ways of doing things just as deaf and blind children learn to communicate or read in special ways.

'the story of Conductive Education's astonishing success has spread around the world'

Conductive Education was originated by a physician, Andras Petö, who started working with a handful of disabled children and some medical students in a Budapest basement during the war. His work had remarkable results: children began to learn to manage for themselves and were able to go out and live in the outside world without needing artificial aids such as wheelchairs. One of Petö's students, Mária Hári, developed his work after his death in 1967. She is now director of the new Peto Institute, an extensive organisation which provides Conductive Education for thousands of motor-disordered children and adults in Hungary, as a national provision. During the last few years, the story of Conductive Education's astonishing success has spread around the world. Foreign families have come in their hundreds to seek help from Dr Hári and her staff.

In the UK, interest was so great that a national charity has been formed, 'The Foundation for Conductive Education', which is working closely with the Hungarians to bring Conductive Education to this country. The key to this is *training*. Conductive Education can only be carried out by



The extra element of movement is carefully built into every moment of the day's routine.

What is Conductive Education and who can it help? Susie Lockyer explains.

properly trained staff called 'conductors' and luckily for Britain, 11 British teachers are now in training at the Pető Institute through a collaborative agreement made between the Foundation for Conductive Education and the Pető Institute. The Foundation is based in Birmingham and has opened the first school for Conductive Education in the UK, the Birmingham Institute. 18 cerebrally palsied children aged between 3 and 5 1/2 years attend this day school from around the West Midlands. At the moment Hungarian conductors are teaching at the Birmingham Institute while our British trainees study in Budapest.

It is important to understand that Conductive Education does not help *everyone* - there are children who may have additional complications which restrict their capacity to take part in a teaching situation and benefit from it. For example, a child who is *profoundly* mentally handicapped, who is epileptic, autistic, or deaf and blind, cannot benefit from Conductive Education.

'each part of the day is carefully planned and prepared for in the minutest detail'

Our 18 children all have very different levels of physical and mental ability, and very individual needs. They work together in 'green group', learning from and with each other, constantly motivated by highly skilled Hungarian conductors. Every part of the day is utilised as an opportunity for learning: changing clothes at the beginning of the day, walking into the classroom, serving and eating dinner, tidiness and personal hygiene, academic and play activities, songs and games. It is a busy day, lasting from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

Each part of the day is carefully planned and prepared for in the minutest detail by the conductors, but within this structured framework lies the flexibility for innovation and fun, a hallmark of the conductor's skill. The children get used to a routine and look forward to each part of the day. In this way Conductive Education artificially provides those opportunities for development which a normal child encounters automatically. How can you clean your teeth if you can't hold a toothbrush, or learn to write if you can't put pencil to paper? The conductor ensures that there is meaning and purpose in every learning situation.

This high quality teaching provides a 'hot-house' environment in which any young child would thrive. After just one year the Birmingham Institute's pupils are blossoming in personality as their horizons widen and they discover the joy of learning. One little boy, Ben Kelly, has suddenly started to talk for the first time. His parents, Yvonne and Paul, are delighted that they can hold a conversation with their son. Several pupils are well on the way to independent walking and others, who are more severely physically disabled, have learned to sit up on their own, pay attention in class, start to feed themselves, etc. We hope that, in time, our children will go on to join a school which is appropriate to their mental ability. For some this will be an ordinary school where they will be able to join in all normal school activities without ancillary help.

There is still a very long way to go before Conductive Education is fully established, working and understood, in this country. The Foundation must build up its resource of trained conductors before more provision can be offered to



Conductors promote the joy of learning throughout the school day.



A Hungarian senior conductor works with a pupil at the Birmingham Institute.

people of different ages with other conditions. Meanwhile we need your understanding and support to make this happen.

Susie Lockyer is the Information Officer for the Foundation for Conductive Education.

For further information on Conductive Education send an SAE to:

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Birmingham B15 2TT

your letters

We reserve the right to edit letters.
Only letters with full name and address
will be considered for publication.

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ISLAM

Congratulations on your splendid and timely edition on Islam and especially on your excellent editorial. I was reminded of it yesterday when the proprietress of a stream-served trout farm near Beaconsfield told me that, in memory of his father, a Muslim customer recently bought from her six healthy rainbow trout and released them into the stream. The Christian religion, of course, is based on a book which describes the practice of placing living animals on temple altars and killing them in ritualistic fashion - to please God, they said.

Accepting, as I must, that God is indeed the caring Creator of all living things - which action, I wondered, was likely to have pleased Him the more?

Brig. PK Goozee CBE
Middleton Stoney, Oxford

I accept the argument in your editorial 'The Relevance of Religion' (April) that we should study Islam for all the reasons you advance. I am however compelled to object to the treatment of the subject in that issue of *Point 3* which is a propaganda pamphlet for Islam. The author of the article 'Way to Water' is permitted to brush aside as not really relevant the parts of the *shari'a* which some followers of Islam find inconvenient. In an issue which devotes 75% of its space to Islam there is no correction of this attitude.

I have worked in countries which are predominantly Muslim, lived for many years in a country with a substantial Muslim minority and have had many Muslim friends. But I have never been able to accept the hypothesis that Muhammad was a unique mouthpiece of God, because so much that is in the *Qur'an* is not reconcilable with Christian belief and experience.

April *Point 3* makes the point that there is much in Muslim discipline and practice which is admirable and

which we could usefully copy. But *Point 3* is a periodical of an organisation founded by Tubby Clayton, a dedicated Christian priest, and the balance of reporting in the April issue betrays much of what Tubby handed on to us.

George Davis
Newbury

As well as the very interesting points mentioned in the various articles on Islam in your last edition, it may also be of interest to your readers to know something of the influence on the West of Islam's intellectual and cultural achievements.

For several centuries before the Renaissance Islamic culture was a profound source of new artistic, philosophical and scientific ideas and Arabic became the world's leading scientific and scholarly language. The tools of astronomy and navigation were the inventions of Islam and before the time of Copernicus, Muslim astronomers theorised that the planets revolved around the sun.

In the fields of medicine and mathematics the West would never have achieved what it did without having inherited discoveries made by Islam. It devised for example algebra (*al gebr* is Arabic for 'the putting together') and introduced the concept of 'zero' and today we still use Arabic numerals.

Islamic art and culture endeavours to express the divine. The interweaving of art and religion in Islam had a profound influence upon the West and they adopted, for example, Muslim vaulting methods in the construction of medieval cathedrals.

Finally, such Western institutions as chivalry have Islamic roots. It is to be hoped that the gradual awareness of the West's debt to Islam will help today to create a new atmosphere of understanding.

Dermot Knox
Wendover

The various articles in the April issue of *Point 3* on the Islamic faith have, as far as I am concerned, revealed a depth and sense of purpose of which I was unaware. Such devoutness, which can rarely be found in the Christian community - other than in contemplative orders - does put us to shame.

Since the publication of that book many words have been spoken and

written and an explanation of the fundamental principles which govern the lives of Muslims does indicate that they have much to complain about. That does not mean that we should condone the dire consequences which have been expounded in various quarters. However, it ought to be stressed that the author is no innocent abroad, being well aware of the import of his work. He may have renounced the faith into which he was born, but whether that gives him the licence to write as he has done, is entirely another matter. Publish and be damned may not always be a good maxim to follow.

John Morgan
Ruislip

EDITORIAL POLICY

I have to admit that I have not been enjoying *Point 3* in recent times. You have been taking certain issues and allowing them to monopolise the whole magazine - Judaism and Islam to name but two. I want to read something which tells me Toc H is still on the right road. Where are the Barclay Barons of today? I sometimes wonder if Toc H has forgotten that it is essentially a Christian movement. To use Tubby's own words, non-Christians may be members, provided they can accept our Christian principles. As a member of 59 years standing, who knew both Tubby and Barkis, I sometimes get despondent. I would like to see a journal such as we had when Barkis was Editor. His editorials were looked forward to. Then there were such extras as 'The Bridge Builders' to give us encouragement. May I suggest you delve into the archives for inspiration?

John Tyzack
Coventry

I must congratulate you on opening up *Point 3* to so many broad and controversial issues. One of your correspondents wrote (April) that branches do not discuss these topics but he is wrong - at least as far as Thanet is concerned. Our branches have been known to become quite heated about them. So do carry on the good work!

However, there is one criticism I would like to raise. Both tolerance and accuracy are well illustrated in the articles but in most cases there is another aspect which does not get put - a side which does go against Toc H ideals. Thinking especially of homosexuality, Islam and even

book review

Honest...

MY GOD - Letters from the Famous on God and the Life Hereafter

Collected and Edited through
collaboration between Hayley Mills
and Marcus Maclaine

Pelham Books, £9.95

This is a fascinating collection of perspectives from well-known contemporary agnostics, atheists and theists (at least 150 of them). To offer you something of the flavour and diversity of these contributors, the book begins with Sir Yehudi Menuhin, followed by John Cleese and concludes with the fourth Dalai Lama and Spike Milligan. Some use little more than a couple of lines to

make their point; others splash around in dogma or playfully tentative speculation running into two or three pages. Childhood influences, not surprisingly, are given widespread acknowledgement. Contributors like Sir Robert Armstrong and the Rev Ian Paisley were so true to expectation as to be funny - my favourites were perhaps Lord Hunt (one and a half pages of thoughtful prose) and Gerald Priestland (a masterly three liner).

Witty cartoons and illustrations from famous artists lighten and improve this work. There is also a clear gender distinction on the subject. Women (with the possible exception of one) all write from a perspective of belief in a God outside themselves; of the men about a quarter appear not to.

Overall *My God* is fascinating, entertaining light reading and says much more about the writers than the subject. Written for a wide and worthy appeal, it seems likely to become a popular gift, as was mine.

Judaism, some of their beliefs and practices are quite contrary to Toc H. Surely this, too, should be spelt out - if only that we may be fully aware of all angles when we meet and mingle with them, as I hope we do?

Thank you for some interesting articles. It does us all good to be shaken out of our own little worlds.

Betty Whyatt
Margate

BLASPHEMY

This is just to say 'Thank you' for your excellent editorial in March's edition of *Point 3*. Amid all the clamouring and conflicting voices its calm sanity was most refreshing. It was helpful, too, to be reminded of the Law Commission's recommendation and the Archbishop of Canterbury's support for it. But I am sure the conclusion you reach in the last paragraph of your article indicates the right course of action.

Brian Richards
London

RECYCLING

Unusual interest was sparked off by our 'green' edition of *Southern Comfort*, with contributions from specialists working on these issues though not members of Toc H.

Members too sent in articles with no need of prompting.

On my last visit to our Recycling Centre in Winchester (no longer called the corporation dump!), I was given these recent figures for one month's collections: metal - 26 metric tonnes; newspapers/magazines - 14 metric tonnes; cardboard - 8 metric tonnes; glass - 6 metric tonnes; textiles - 2.6 metric tonnes. Engine oil and household waste would be in addition to these figures.

Organised recycling more than pays the staff required and solves problems of illegal tipping, as well as the endless search for new tips further and further away from centres with large populations. As well as raising money by collecting waste paper (and there are several ingenious schemes for sharing these proceeds between charities, as Reading members can tell you!), Toc H might well become a pressure group along with Friends of the Earth, wherever a recycling centre has not been organised by their local authority.

Anyone interested in further information or a copy of our last *Southern Comfort* can write to me at 50a Hyde St, Winchester, Hants, SO23 7DY. But act quickly - I am about to be recycled myself!

Rev Bob Knight
Winchester

All royalties from sales are being donated to Save the Children funds.

Paul Rogoff

...and Legal

BUT IS IT LEGAL? - Fundraising and the Law

by Sally Capper

Bedford Square Press, £3.95 (An NCVO Practical Guide)

In Toc H, as in any other family, we must pay our way and even the most modest activity needs some money to be effective. We all seem to get involved in a wide variety of fundraising schemes and Sally Capper has produced a useful booklet to help us keep within the law.

Its seven sections cover such things as house to house and flag day collections, lotteries and raffles and such latter day affairs as car boot sales and the employment of professional fundraisers. The booklet guides us through the requirement of permits for street collections and advises that one should not embark on any form of direct appeal to the public without careful regard for such official permission. Although unlikely, regular and substantial activity could even be liable for VAT and Income Tax!

Raffles and lotteries are the most frequently queried forms of fundraising and it is made clear that although 'private' ones are free from restrictions (ie, tickets can only be sold to members), registration and permission are necessary. Currently this costs £25. Certified returns of income and expenditure have to be submitted within three months for such lotteries.

Much useful background information is given and Sally Capper's experience as a barrister provides an authoritative basis for the publication.

Ted Tunnadine

Ted Tunnadine is the Honorary Treasurer of Toc H

Please Note:

The Editorial Office has moved!

Please send all your letters
and items of news to:

Toc H Editorial & Publicity Office,
38 Newark Street, London E1 2AA

What's happening in Hythe?

Tony Cock writes from a small branch which is very involved in the local community.

We feel our **Umbrella Club**, started two years ago with Dr Barham, is very gratifying. We had had discussions with Ann Crouch (National Development Officer, Friendship Circles) about the possibility of setting up a friendship circle in the area. But because of the need for a paid organiser, we looked instead at Umbrella Clubs (which are volunteer run), of which there were already quite a few in Kent. I had known Dr Barham for some years on the local psychiatric hospital committee and we could see that, with the running down of the psychiatric hospitals, there was a real need to help people with a mental illness in the community. We are pleased now that we are getting a good mix of people at our Thursday afternoon club. We start with a simple lunch of soup, bread rolls and cheese, cake and a cup of tea. The catering is organised by Catherine Serle, a retired midwife, with the help of Toc H and other organisations on a rota basis. It is self-financing as the members are charged 50p each for the meal.

Local organisations have been generous in getting us on a sound financial footing. These include the local Health Authority and Shell and, most recently, the Mayoress of Hythe (who donated the proceeds from her recent ball). We meet in the local Methodist Church where we have all the facilities we need, including storage for our table tennis equipment. Some of the Hythe members get involved with Dr Barham and the other members of the club in a variety of games and friendly chat. 40 or so people attend every week. We have now started holding a club on Monday afternoons - this is a quieter affair but many still feel it is worthwhile.

We feel pleased, in the branch, that this is a job really worth doing. It is valued by the local community and



Frank Teml and Toc H member Frank Dives enjoy a game of snooker at the Hythe Umbrella Club.



Peter Simmonds of the Hythe Rotary Club presents Arthur Rust, chairman of the Toc H branch, with a cheque for £350 towards their social welfare vehicle fund.

Photo: Kent Messenger Group

has had a spin-off in getting us some publicity in the local press! It's shown how Toc H can get involved with a range of local organisations and individuals, and our Development Officer at the time, Alan Johnson, was also brought in on the discussions. But, as with so many of these good pieces of work, there is usually one man at the helm - in this case, the success of the Umbrella Club can only be attributed to Dr Barham, our Chairman.

With the help and advice of the central Toc H publicity team, we have also set about raising the money to replace our ageing **social welfare vehicle**. There is quite a big jump in cost between a vehicle such as we have now (12 seats) and the sort we would like (15 or 16 seats) and it seems a daunting task, to try to raise £25,000! But we feel that it is a 'town' vehicle, intended to be used by the people and organisations of Hythe and so we have tried to raise the money in the town.

This year, for the first time, Hythe Branch are putting on a **project**. With funding from the Warden Manor Award Scheme and, we hope, from the BBC Children in Need Appeal, as well as from Toc H members, we are having 12 boys from a London borough to spend a week's summer holiday with us. Hythe Branch has for many years been on the support team for the Ashford Project and we hope to continue to do so - but we have been dreaming of splashing out on our own for many years now!

We are also pleased with our **Carr-Gomm Home** in Hythe. This started in a small way, following a visit as speaker at one of our Guest Nights from Richard Carr-Gomm. There were a number of 'high-level' Toc H

links with Carr-Gomm after that. The house here is run mostly with a committee of non-Toc H people but in the beginning the driving force was one of our members, Frank Dives.

Hythe Branch was also among the founding members of the **Home Farm Trust** house in Hythe - but it quickly became evident that an enormous amount of fundraising was needed and so, although we remained friends, the rag was taken up by some very good fundraisers and organisers from the town.

Hythe is only a small branch, with just a few members; but it is in tune with the local community and keeps its ears to the ground. We always talk to other organisations about our ideas and get other people to help. We put effort, for example, into getting pieces regularly in the local paper about our work. We do what Toc H has always done - see the need, kick a few ideas around, talk to other people, get them involved and see where it leads, feel the joy when things begin to happen. In all the work we have been involved in over the past years we haven't attracted many new members and if acquiring new members were the yardstick of good Toc H work, then clearly Hythe would have failed. But I feel that there are so many jobs waiting to be done in our local community and that there is a special way in which Toc H can be involved and can involve others. So I'm not pessimistic about our future!

We always hide our light under a bushel; this is the way most Toc H work has always been done, quietly and with no seeking of any thanks or reward. I am pleased with the work Toc H has done in Hythe, and that's all that matters to me!

Alms and the Washing of Feet

John Dickson recently attended the ancient Maundy Service. He found it a fascinating and moving experience, as he here reports.

On Maundy Thursday the Queen traditionally gives out her Maundy Money. This year the service took place in Birmingham Cathedral. I was offered the chance to be part of the congregation, and I thought I might try to share something of what I saw.

I think we all know of the Maundy Service, but would we be able to say much about what we would see if we had the chance to take part? I started from the point of knowing very little - I was not even sure why I had been given the chance to take part in the celebration.

The distribution of alms and the washing of feet are of great antiquity.

We asked Tony to write about the variety of work that Toc H members in Hythe were involved in, and to tell *Point 3* readers how they had gone about raising money and attracting local publicity. But there is lots of Toc H work out there 'hidden under a bushel' that we don't know about. Other members would like to hear your news and you may even be able to offer inspiration! ROUND UP is what you make it. So send in your news and photographs now!

PHOTOGRAPHS can be in colour or in black and white but no slides please. If you have had a good picture in the local paper, send *Point 3* a copy, along with the date and name of the paper. And when taking your own snaps, try to take them from an interesting angle - the more unusual and striking the picture, the more likely we are to use it!

REMEMBER: we work well in advance in preparing *Point 3*. We need your news items at least 6 weeks in advance. The deadline for the August issue is 16 June - so HURRY!

The Maundy can be traced back with certainty to the 12th century. The Service derives its name from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning a commandment, and the opening words of the service are: 'I give you a new commandment; love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another' (St John 13, 34).

The number of recipients is related to the years of the sovereign's age. The Queen is 63 and so 126 people receive the Maundy gifts: 63 men and 63 women. The distribution is in two parts, and the gifts which are handed to the participants are symbolic and highly prized. There are two purses: the red one is an allowance for clothing and provisions that used to be given in kind; the white purse is the special Maundy money in silver pennies, twopences, threepences, and fourpences - as many pence as add up to the age of the sovereign. Though the act of washing the feet seems to have died out about 1730, the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded in white linen towels, and they also carry the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs.

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard (the 'Indoor Guard') also play an important part in the Service. It is the oldest military

corps now existing, having been created in 1485 by Henry VII. To me they were Beefeaters!

St Phillip's is one of the smallest cathedrals in the country. Birmingham only received city status 100 years ago, and so holding the Maundy Service in the cathedral for the first time was a recognition of the city's 100th Birthday.

I had gone expecting a spectacle, and found far more. It struck me as a meeting of the great and the good. I do not say that so as to be included in the good, but because the people being recognised this Maundy Thursday looked to me to be very ordinary. It is difficult to say just from looking at people, but I was struck by the fact that these were not the MPs and judges, although they were there in the audience - no, these were ordinary people who would not receive recognition in any other forum. Also, to my surprise the service was, for me, a very moving and spiritual occasion. I went because I was interested, but I am pleased that I got the opportunity to see firsthand one of England's oldest events.

■ John Dickson is a Toc H Development Officer in the West Midlands & South Wales Region.

points ◀◀◀◀◀

Brent North MP Mr Rhodes Boyson attended the annual meeting of the Wembley Toc H Blind Club in March, when it celebrated its 46th birthday. He is a regular visitor to the Club and paid tribute to its work.

Margate Branch recently had an interesting talk from the Rev Colin Fletcher, vicar of a local church, who spoke about 'The Challenge facing the Church today', looking at social problems and changing attitudes.

King's Norton and Northfield Branch held a joyful 60th anniversary celebration at Selly Oak Methodist Church in March. Over 60 people attended the service, conducted by the Rev Peter Jones and C of E Padre Roderic Williams. Rose Radford and George Lee spoke at the lunch which followed. There was a great sense of 'family' and of happy inter-communion - and all was helped along by the bright sunny weather!

Ilford and Seven Kings W Branch reached its 62nd birthday in March and celebrated with special prayers and a social afternoon.

Colsterdale has recently acquired a minibus - even before it's finished raising the money to buy it! Age Concern and the Ripon Disabled Association have already handed over the keys of the bus which they were using before they decided to buy a new one. The vehicle will also be used by other voluntary groups. The fundraising continues - there is still some way to go to the target of £2,400!



Leon Smallwood (right), treasurer of Ripon Disabled Association, hands over the keys of the minibus to Toc H development officer John Dunwell (left) and treasurer of the Colsterdale Centre, Dick Stayman (centre).

Photo: S. Johnson

new members

The following new members were registered during March/April:

David Harrison (Avon District)
Mrs Agnes Melrose
(Barton on Humber J)
Thomas H Tann
(Beds & North Herts District)
Tom McNamee (Birmingham District)
Mrs Viola Harper, Mrs Bruna M
Watkins (Broughton Astley W)
Mrs Phyllis N Hawker (Chard J)
John C Neale (Cosby J)
Robert E Williams (Criccieth J)
Mrs Rene Shaw (Crewkerne J)
Mrs Jenny Matthews,
Mrs Beryl Clarke (Hednesford J)
Mrs Kathleen Davidson,
Miss Dora Wright (Hunstanton J)
Mrs Jean Burrill
(Rushden Pytchley W)
Murray E Phipps (Scaford J)
Miss Wilma Mark (Watford W)
Miss Helen Mortimore
(Watford Action J Grp)
Timothy S & Michael P W Spencer,
Andrew P Smith (WOTCH)
Mrs Pamela M McDougall
(Winsford J)
Miss Rachel A Jones (Wrexham J)

Welcome to 23 new members.

farewell

to Dermot Knox, our Fundraiser, who left at the end of April.

congratulations

update

obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In January

John W F Boon (Avon District)

In February

Ida Rippingale (Clacton Afternoon)

In March

Mary Pett (South Lincs District)
Albert F Watson (Buckingham)

In April

Sir Alexander F Giles
(Tayforth District)
Ada K Jeffreys (Watford)
James T Martin (Derby District)
Ronald J F Phillips (Goring by Sea)
Muriel H Rattray (Sandown/Shanklin)

Not previously recorded

Marian Jones (Blaenau Ffestiniog)
Kenneth D Lavington (Goring by Sea)
Betty Morton
(Stony Stratford & Wolverton)
Edith Riley (Bala)
Wilfred Solt (Looe)
Walter H Spry
(Bournemouth & Christchurch)
Mrs G M Williams (Kempston)
Dorothy L Willis
(South East Essex District)

Sir Alexander Giles, KBE, CMG
Director of Toc H
1969-1974

Sandy Giles' appointment as Director of Toc H was viewed at first with deep suspicion. He was an 'outsider' appointed to the top job. Worse than that he came to us following a distinguished career in the Colonial Service; and he had a Knighthood to prove it. Gradually, however, his quiet, unassuming manner, his dry sense of humour and his straightforward friendliness won us over.

As Director he guided the movement through the legal complexities and human anxieties of the integration of Toc H and Toc H Women's Association. It was a task which made full use of his diplomatic skills and his knowledge of the 'corridors of power'.

During World War Two Sandy served in the Royal Scots, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1947 he joined the Colonial Service, working first of all in East Africa. In 1955 he became Resident in St Vincent, and in 1964 he was appointed Resident Commissioner (with Governor status) in Basutoland. He remained there until Basutoland achieved independence as Lesotho.

When he retired from the Toc H Staff in 1974 he returned to his native Edinburgh, where he played an active part in the Church of Scotland. He became a Trustee of Toc H and of the Tubby Clayton Fund, which helps ordinands of all denominations. He took a very special interest in the work of the Fund, visiting all Scottish applicants on its behalf. During his last months he was in almost constant pain, which he bore with characteristic patience and humour.

Many Toc H members came to regard Sandy Giles as a true friend. They share, in some measure, the sense of loss felt by his wife, Meg, and his stepchildren.

KPB

John Christie's death in March deprives many of us in Scotland of a valued colleague and true friend and leaves the world a much poorer place. He had been a member of Toc H for many years - in Oakley Branch and then on Tayforth District and the Scottish Executive Committee. He was a devoted worker despite suffering from a crippling and frightening illness that would have petrified many others into excusable immobility and self-pity. We pay tribute to his memory; to his joiality, his humanity, his companionship and his desire to be involved.

JM

to Louisa Parish and John Evans on their marriage. Agnes Cook was there:



A very happy event was held on 8 April 1989 when South Wales Toc H staff member Louisa Parish married the Glamorgan District Central Councillor, John Evans (junior) at the village church at Willingham, Cheshire. Louisa had been brought up in the village, so there was great local interest. Our National Chaplain, Rev Alan Johnson, assisted the Vicar at the very sincere ceremony, and gave the blessing in Welsh. The Best Man, Derek Adams, was one of the keen local volunteers and has taken part in projects in S. Wales. The Rev James Power, Padre to the Cardiff J. Branch, said the Grace at the reception in St Ives, where 150 guests gathered. The bridegroom's parents (both Toc H members), relatives and friends, all travelled by coach from Treforest in S. Wales for the wedding. Several members of Toc H and a number of Toc H staff were privileged to be present. The happy couple went on to spend a week in the Yorkshire Dales.

EG (Ted) Bland was a member of the Ipswich Branch for 58 years and very active until moving to Felixstowe a few years ago. He held most of the important offices in the branch. His special Toc H interests were as a projectionist with the hospitals film unit, the running of a club for mentally handicapped boys and the outing to Clacton for the elderly housebound of the town.

ERT

Ida Rippingale died in February after an illness very bravely borne. She was a staunch and much-loved member of Toc H, always ready to give a helping hand.

MT

Edward Prentice was a former member of St Austell Branch and a founder member of Tywardreath Joint Branch. He served in the Merchant Navy. He joined Toc H in 1944 and held the offices of jobmaster and treasurer for many years with dignity and a quiet sense of humour. During his last illness there was no word of complaint.

DLR

Mrs Florence Smith died in March in her 99th year. She was a founder member of Kidderminster Women's Branch in 1950 and with her husband, the late 'Bob' Smith, took an active part in the Toc H formation of the now Kidderminster and District Society for the Blind. We give thanks for the life of a wonderful lady who until recent weeks was keenly interested in the work of Toc H.

ES

Albert Watson, a long-standing member of Buckingham Branch, died on Good Friday. He was a loyal worker who held various offices over the years. Latterly, despite ailing health, he regularly helped at Buckingham Hospital. He was held in high esteem by local residents and will be sadly missed by branch members.

DB

Ada Jeffreys, who passed away recently, will be sadly missed by us all. She was a founder member of Walsford Branch.

NW

Thomas Baker, a very early member of Toc H, died recently. His name appears on the petition of December 1922 by which Middlesbrough Branch came into existence. One of the many tasks he took on was the teaching and guidance of new entrants. At Toc H meetings, he was always listened to - he had the ability to quiet an argument and had the character of a Christian who cared for others and was prepared to lead.

BB

We give thanks for their lives

Attention!

Please send notifications of deaths of Toc H members to **Win Heal** at **Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6BT**. She will then pass on the names, as well as any tributes for publication, to the Editor.

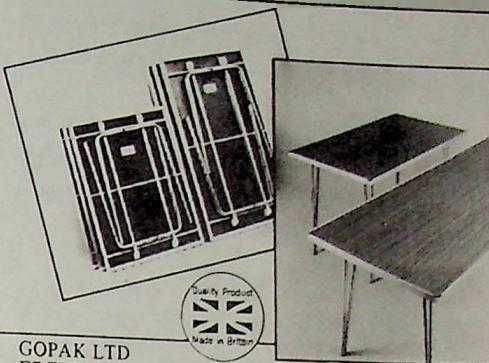
small ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to **Point 3 Magazine**. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 38 Newark Street, London E1 2AA. Tel: 01 247 5110.

Hythe Kent, Luxury 6 berth mobile home, fully equipped with cooker, fridge, gas fire, WC, shower, TV, radio. Situated on a pleasant site with club house and bus service. £70 a week, including gas/electric. Contact: Tony Cock, 7 Tourney Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407.



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Projector Wanted

Toc H Zimbabwe are looking for a second hand 16mm projector in reasonably good condition. It would be of great value to the two long term volunteers shortly to join them from England, as well as to their Cinc Team, which operates in a few charitable institutions in Harare.

Anyone who thinks they can help should contact:

KenPrideaux-Brune,
International Officer,
Toc H Headquarters,
1 Forest Close,
Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6BT.
Tel: 0296 623911.

Falmouth Toc H Holiday House. Accommodation for 5, plus cot. Open all year. £60 per week. Tel: Falmouth (0326) 312689.

Hythe Kent - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed, breakfast and/or evening meal or full board. Rates negotiable. Enquire: Tony Cock, 7 Tourney Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407.

Blakeney - Norfolk, Flat to let overlooking quay. Sleeps 4/5. Full of interest to walkers, artists, bird lovers and naturalists. Just everything! Tel: Rev Oliver, 0798 831404.

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Raise funds quickly, easily. Super ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc. gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD3 8BT.

A PADRE'S POINTS

Rev Basil Jones, former Regional Padre for Toc H in the North Wales and North West Region, has written a short leaflet containing his interpretation of the Four Points of the Toc H Compass. Copies are available from:

Cyril Carrier,
367 Hungerford Rd,
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1EZ.
Tel: 0270 582870

Price: 20p each plus postage at 14p.

VACANCIES

**Community House,
Birmingham**

There are three vacancies in the Birmingham Community House. All residents are asked to be participative members of the house as well as taking an active part in the local community. Anyone interested should write to the residents at:

Toc H Community House,
24 Grove Avenue, Moseley,
Birmingham B13 9RU
Tel: (021) 449 4668



Prideaux House

The Community and Fellowship of
Friends Anonymous Service

Prideaux House is not a hotel, nor a boarding house, nor a hostel. It is the home of a community of people who have found their faith in God very real and relevant.

Our aim is to offer good quality accommodation in a homely atmosphere for that short break in London, near the West End, theatres, shops, museums and concerts. Ideally suited for persons attending conferences, courses, business meetings, interviews, and for those in need of relaxation. Perfect for groups or persons wanting peace and quiet.

Accommodation is offered in The Stanley Coulson Wing of our Community House and Centre in ten single (only) rooms, and all proceeds support our work in Hackney.

Each bedroom has a very high standard of furnishing with own wash-basin. There are good shower facilities, lounges, TV Room, small garden and the Community Chapel. Wholesome cooking is the norm. Sadly, accommodation is not suitable for children, smokers and persons on specific orthodox diets.

For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical Interfaith Centre,
10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL. Telephone: 01 986 2233.

(If writing, state name of paper, quoting 'ACC/87'.)

Scared of Missing the Next Issue of Point 3?

Don't rely on other people to show you their copy; make sure you get one by taking out a personal subscription. For just £2 a year* you could have *Point 3* delivered to you every month. Here are just some of the things you'll be reading about in the coming months:

Our series of special issues on the world's great religions will continue with a look at Hinduism and at Buddhism. We shall be examining some of the issues facing us in Britain today, such as homelessness and the approach to mental health. Our 'Starting Point' series will continue with articles on the marks and community houses, Talbot House, Tubby Clayton - and *Point 3* itself! We'll be hearing of some of the problems of those living in Central America. All this plus our regular book reviews and, of course, news and views from within the movement.

Take out your subscription to *Point 3* now by sending this form to: **Toc H Despatch Department, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT**

Please send me *Point 3* each month for one year.

I enclose cheque/postal order for £2 (payable to Toc H).

Name _____

Address _____

*Any contribution towards the cost of postage will be gratefully received.

Cuddesdon House

Look and Learn

Do you go into the local Parish Church when visiting a village or town?

How many of us just look around and admire the architecture, the windows, the carving on the pew ends, ceilings, pillars, pulpits...but with little knowledge of what we are actually seeing? The opportunity to rectify this is available at Cuddesdon House this autumn:

Look and Learn . . . English Parish Churches led by **Bob Douch** (former Local History lecturer, Southampton University). **Mon 23 Oct - Fri 27 Oct 1989**

The week will include slide-based talks and discussions; visits to Oxfordshire churches; a day in Oxford; as well as opportunities to relax and enjoy the fellowship of Toc H members and friends at Cuddesdon House. It is not necessary to have previous knowledge of the subject, which will be approached in an entertaining manner.

Cost: £65 fully inclusive.

For further details and reservations (with £10 deposit) contact:

Miss Daphne Dawes,
338 Bath Road, Keynsham,
Bristol BS18 1TQ
Tel: 0225 873022.

Quiet Afternoon

A quiet afternoon has been arranged in the West Midlands which is open to all. It will be held between 12.15 and 5 pm on **Sunday July 9th** at the Friends Meeting House, Painswick, Stroud, and will be led by the Rev Alan Johnson, National Chaplain.

Names to me please. I will send a map of how to get there. The cost is £1, which will be collected on the day.

**Padre Hugh Potts, 5 Hilton Close,
Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 6LQ**
Tel.: 0452 305188